

Lesson Overview

A critical part of your planning process is identifying what resources and capabilities within the jurisdiction are available to respond to a HazMat incident. With this knowledge, you can develop a HazMat Appendix to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) with an understanding of what resources you have and where your resource gaps are.

This lesson will cover the purpose and benefits of assessing resources for a HazMat response. At the end of this lesson, you should be able to conduct an assessment of your jurisdiction's HazMat resources.

Why Assess Resources

There are two main reasons for assessing HazMat response resources.

1. To determine exactly what types of resources are available for different types of incidents, where they are, and how long it will take them to respond.
2. To determine where your resource shortfalls are.

Knowing what resources your jurisdiction has, and what it doesn't, will help you in deployment planning as well as planning to fill the gap—what you can do until help arrives.

Benefits of Resource Assessment

There are many benefits to assessing resources, including:

- Creating a shared vision of emergency management among all key players.
 - Moving toward an emergency management-responder partnership by creating common standards.
 - Providing opportunities to integrate jurisdiction plans with facility plans.
 - Refining the jurisdiction's EOP for strategic planning purposes, thus reducing deficiencies and achieving required response capabilities.
 - Supporting a strategy of total emergency management.
 - Assisting in developing strategies to address deficiencies.
 - Improving communications among local and State agencies and the private sector.
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When to Conduct a Resource Assessment

You can conduct a resource assessment at any time to focus on the needs of the moment.

- **A Preplan assessment** should be conducted to establish baseline capabilities before planning begins.
 - **A Postplan assessment** should be conducted to focus on shortfall functions identified in the plan.
 - **An “As-directed” assessment** should be conducted to establish specific capabilities. For example, if your jurisdiction does not have a HazMat team, an “as-directed” assessment can identify specific requirements—what you have and what you need.
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Resource Questions Answered Through Assessment

The resource assessment should answer three basic questions:

1. Does the jurisdiction's HazMat Appendix and response capability meet the threats posed?
 2. Are the goals, objectives, and mission of the appendix being achieved?
 3. Is the community able to redirect resources to avoid a wide-scale impact from an incident?
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Types of Resource Assessments

When conducting a resource assessment, you should consider all types of resources—people, equipment, tools, and facilities. For example:

- **Personnel:** Assess personnel resources by identifying and rating the numbers of personnel, their organization and location, and their training levels.
 - **Equipment:** Assess equipment and tools by determining whether personnel have the equipment that they need, in the correct numbers, and that it is in good working order.
 - **Facilities:** Assess facilities by determining whether your jurisdiction has the appropriate facilities in locations that will enable personnel to respond within a given timeframe to the highest-rated threats.
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Conducting a Resource Assessment

Conducting a resource assessment involves two key steps:

1. Determine what resources to assess.
2. Analyze and rate the resource.

These steps will be described in the lesson.

Step 1: Determine What Resources To Assess

Determining the resources to assess allows you to approach the assessment systematically. It also allows you to establish a baseline for creating goals to measure resource improvement.

Because you are dealing with HazMat incidents, focus your assessment on the resources used in those incidents. Remember that resources other than HazMat teams will also respond. Be sure to include all resources that could be called on in a HazMat response.

Resource lists should be included in your jurisdiction's basic plan. Use that as your starting point. Then, cull out HazMat resources from the overall list.

Step 2: Analyze and Rate the Resource

After isolating your jurisdiction's HazMat resources, analyze each resource in terms of its response capability. Most jurisdictions use a scaled scoring system (similar to that used in the risk assessment) to ensure that each rating is consistent. An example of a scaled system is provided.

Resource Rating Scale

A typical resource rating scale is shown below. Resource ratings should be assigned based on **how the resource will be used** in a HazMat response.

1. Not capable.
 2. Marginally capable. Substantial effort is required to reach full capability.
 3. Generally capable. A baseline capability is developed, but a significant effort is required for full capability.
 4. Very capable. A high level of capability has been attained, and only a limited effort is required for full capability.
 5. Fully capable. Only maintenance is required.
- N/A. Not applicable to the situation and/or response structure.

Critical resources rated 1, 2, or 3 need special emphasis during planning, training, and exercises.

Lesson Summary

Analyzing resources will help you to determine what you have—and what you need—to respond to a HazMat incident. Resource assessments that are tied to HazMat assignment will ensure that all resources can be assessed and made mission-ready.

Resource assessment involves two steps:

1. Determine what resources to assess.
2. Analyze and rate the resource.

When you complete your analysis and rating, you should know your priorities for training and exercising.
